

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 9th July 1904.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 1st July reviews the present political situation in an article headed "Disaster in store for India." It says:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
July 1st, 1904.

A rumoured mission to Afghanistan.

The very suggestion of an Afghan mission alarms us. We have still a vivid recollection of the fate of past expeditions into Afghanistan. A mission to Afghanistan is very different from one to Tibet, for the Tibetans are not at all to be compared to the Afghans, who are an irrepressible, brave, warlike, and powerful race. The Afghans are not afraid of death or of any living enemy, and when they are maddened by religious frenzy they are not to be approached with impunity. May we never come into collision with them. If we do, there is no knowing how many lives will have to be sacrificed. It makes one's hair stand on end and the heart palpitate to think of the torrent of human blood that will then redden the surface of the earth.

May the Disposer of all events give Lord Curzon sense not to set his heart on an Afghan mission.

2. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July has the following:—

BASUMATI,
July 2nd, 1904.

Dalai Lama.

Our readers have seen that all hope for Lhasa is at an end. On hearing that Dalai Lama, the ruler of Lhasa, is holding himself in readiness for a flight to China, we have been reminded of the fate which overtook Dost Muhammad and his son, Shere Ali, of Kabul. In his attempt to depose Dost Muhammad and place Shah Shuja on the throne of Kabul, Lord Auckland, the then Viceroy of India, brought about a disaster, in which fourteen thousand British troops were sacrificed. Later on, the British avenged themselves upon Kabul, and Dost Muhammad had to fly to Russia. But he was followed, caught, and brought to Calcutta. Subsequently, however, he secured the friendship of the British and was reinstated in his throne. His son, Shere Ali, however, had to follow his father's example and fly to Russia in Lord Lytton's time. His son, Ayub Khan, had also to take flight into Persia, but he was caught and brought back to India. A similar fate certainly lies in wait for Dalai Lama, whether he flies to China or Russia.

3. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th July has the following:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 6th, 1904.

"A 'mission' again."

Lord Curzon has tired the patience of the Indians by his so-called Missions and Commissions. A correspondent of the *London Times* has given us an idea of the sort of reforms we can expect from the Police Commission. The University Commission has laid the axe at the root of higher education of the Indians, especially of the poorer Indians. Instead of doing any good it has done the greatest injury. We have now come to know that Lord Curzon looked like the innocent flower but was the serpent hidden under it, while he tried to deceive the Indian people by means of false shows and empty words.

So much about Commissions. But when we think of Lord Curzon's Missions, we are really terror-stricken. Our readers already know what a devastating fire he has kindled in Tibet, the land of those proverbially meek and pious monks, under the pretence of sending a "Peaceful Mission" there. At last the roaring lion has thrown off its mask of a lamb's skin and assumed its real form. The snow-white flag of the "Peace Mission" has been dyed red with the heart's-blood of the Tibetan people and planted on the Himalayan heights. Thousands of the Tibetans were killed, thousands of mothers lost their sons, thousands of wives lost their husbands, and numberless infants were made orphans before the present peace proposals were heard of.

Great was our relief when we heard that no mission to Kabul was intended to be despatched. But a mission is to be sent to Persia, for the good of India of course. This time it is not to be a political mission but a commercial mission. The generous English rulers have forsaken their food and sleep in their anxiety to promote the arts and commerce of India, and we know that a Commercial Department is going to be established for the improvement of the commerce of India.

We find that Government feels the necessity of sending missions to those three countries through which Russia may advance towards India. Yet there

is no direct mention of the connection subsisting between Russia and these missions. What can be the object of the peaceful mission to Tibet and the proposed commercial mission to Persia, unless it be to observe the movements of Russia? If Russia had not been at war with Japan, would she not have sent troops to resist the advance of the English into those countries?

If the commercial mission is sent by sea, then it will certainly be followed by torpedo boats, cruisers, and battleships laden with mines. Who can say how many lakhs of money will again disappear from the Government treasury? The Punjab is going to be depopulated by the plague; there is severe water-scarcity all over Bengal; towns and villages are being depopulated by malaria which has its origin in the old uncleansed tanks, and the Punjab and the Central Provinces are going to be turned into deserts by annual visitations of famine. Under these circumstances, what benefit India can expect to derive from these various missions can be explained only by the Indian rulers and the Secretary of State for India. Famine and malaria have brought us to our last gasp, and it is beyond our power to comprehend such matters.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 28th, 1904.

4. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 28th June says:—

Police reform. We constantly receive news of the depredations committed by thieves and dacoits in various parts of the Mymensingh district. We noticed several of them in our recent issues, but to no effect. It is not very creditable that, living under the British Government, people should live in constant fear of their life and property. Government, in spite of its many severe rules and restrictions, has not yet been able to bring these unruly elements of the population under control. This shows that there is a screw loose somewhere. Thanks to the Arms Act, the villagers, naturally timid, have been made utterly powerless to defend themselves.

Government has made the police solely responsible for the peace of the district. But the police are not infallible: as a fact they are a lot of inefficients. There is no sympathy between the police and the public, and the gulf between them is immense. Their habits have made the police a separate class of beings who cannot possibly possess the sympathy of the public. Inefficient from the beginning, and working without the co-operation of the public, it is no wonder that they are unable to cope with these thieves and dacoits.

The chaukidars form a principal part of the police force. They are utterly unmindful of their duties. The villager has no knowledge either of the chaukidar or daffadar, except as a collector of taxes. The faults of the village watch are being daily exposed in the papers and brought to the notice of Government. Still they go their way as of old. If they had been careful and mindful of their duties, theft and dacoity would not be so rampant as they are. It is a matter of no small regret that these chaukidars and policemen should fatten on the poor tax-payers' money, but that the latter should get no return in the shape of safety of life and property.

We do not harbour any unjust thoughts against Government, nor should we do so. But this excessive confidence in the police has been productive of numerous mischiefs. The undue favour shown by Government to the police has demoralised the force. If Government kept its eyes open to their faults, we would not have occasion to speak of these so frequently. Government has stamped out *burgis* and *thugs*. It can similarly stamp out thieves and dacoits, if only it will turn its attention to this question of police reform.

From the summary of its report published in the *Times*, we judge that the Police Commission has admitted that the majority of police officers are worthless, oppressive, and corrupt. There should, therefore, be no further delay in dealing with this matter. We cannot imagine why the report of the Commission is still being withheld from the public. Lord Curzon carried out all his other reforms with rapidity. We are all the more amazed at the slow progress he is making with the police reform question, and the allied question of the separation of the judicial and executive services.

If the reform of the police is undertaken with an eye to the redress of the grievances of the public, a great boon would be conferred on the country, and we shall hear no more of these repeated cases of oppression.

But that is not all. If the public and specially the zamindars co-operate, the police would be far more successful than now in tracking offenders down. At present, for various reasons, of which the chief is the faults of the police themselves, the public wish to have nothing to do with them. Government should see that the police treat the public with courtesy and seek their co-operation.

5. The same paper complains that gambling has become very common in the district during the last few years. Last year there was gambling in the public market-place. Government has since extended the Gambling Act to all municipalities in this district, except Muktagacha. But the Act should have been extended everywhere in Mymensingh. In some places in the Tangail subdivision, notably Elenga, Saya, and Sealkhole, the public roads have become well-nigh impassable owing to the depredations of the gamblers. The police are powerless so long as the Gambling Act is not extended and enforced. While Government would lose nothing by making the Act applicable to the whole district, the law-abiding public would be thereby protected from a class of ruffians.

CHARU MINIR,
June 28th, 1904.

6. The same paper publishes a letter from a correspondent, giving a detailed list of numerous thefts that occurred at Amlitola and Megharbari, Jamalpur subdivision, during the months of *Baisakh* and *Jaisitha* last. In all the cases mentioned, formal complaints were lodged with the police, but the offenders have not yet been traced. This has led people to spare themselves the trouble and still more the expense attendant on making a formal complaint before the police. An appeal is made to the Magistrate and the Subdivisional officer to make a personal inquiry on the spot. The presence of too many public women in the villages makes them a resort of *budmashes*.

CHARU MINIR.

7. The *Uluberia Darpan* [Uluberia] of the 29th June has the following:—
The village chaukidar. Though we cannot speak for whole Bengal, we know that in the Hooghly and Howrah districts the office of village chaukidar is a sinecure. The chaukidar not only gets his pay from the villagers, but even his nice dress at their cost. Unfortunately, however, this well-robed personage is seldom found to pay a visit to the village. Not to speak of his keeping watch at night, he does not come to the villagers' houses even to register births and deaths. These registrations are, therefore, made most perfunctorily and often incorrectly. But the chaukidar pays a visit to the village when he wants fruits or fish for some guest whom he may be entertaining in his house. In many cases we came to know that thefts and dacoites were committed by the aid of chaukidars.

ULUBERIA DARPAN,
June 29th, 1904.

In many places in the Uluberia subdivision the chaukidars never perform their duty of watch and ward regularly, although the chaukidari-tax is regularly realised. What is the use of chaukidars if they do not keep watch and ward, and protect the villagers from thieves? The neglect of duty by chaukidars is due to the remissness of the police in supervising their work.

8. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 29th June has the following:—
Liquor shops at Kalighat. We have no less than four liquor shops at Kalighat, and all are in a flourishing condition. It is disgraceful that Government, to whom the health and morality of its subjects should be a primary consideration, should allow so many shops in one place. One shop or at most two would be quite sufficient for local needs. We understand there is an application before Government just now for permission to open a fifth shop. The site selected is the junction of Russa Road and Haldarpara Road, which is the exact point where pilgrims alight from the tram-cars on their way to the temple. We do not know if Government will, for the sake of pecuniary profit, consent to lose its claim to be called beneficent by permitting this shop to be opened. But this we know that the four existing

PRATIJNA,
June 29th, 1904.

shops are more than enough to satisfy the craving for drink of the local public. We would be thankful if Government, instead of adding to their number, made an effort to reduce it.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
June 29th, 1904.

9. A correspondent writes to the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 29th June, bringing a serious charge against the Gymnastic Instructor of the Local Nawab's High School. It is alleged that on the 22nd June last at Khagra, as he was standing before the shop of one Daman Shaha, he took undue liberties with many women passing by, and that he was taken to task for this by one Babu Dhananjay Bhattacharya. It also transpired that his pay had been reduced from Rs. 30 to Rs. 25 on the report of the Head Master of a school where he had previously served. Some five or six months ago he was caught in a similar offence and soundly thrashed, but apparently to no purpose. The educational authorities should inquire into this matter. Babu Akhil Chandra Shaha is cited as a witness.

BASUMATI,
July 2nd, 1904.

10. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July complains that thefts are constantly occurring in the Cross Street quarter of the town. Over one thousand rupees worth of goods were stolen during the last two weeks. In some cases the doors were forced open and articles stolen, even so early as before 9-30 P.M. This leads to the suspicion that it was the work of an organised gang: no petty thief would dare so far. These thefts in Barabazar appear to us as impossible feats. At 9-30 P.M., the streets are quite crowded with traffic, and business is in full swing. At such a time to force a street door open cannot but be a very difficult feat. There is no want of police constables, but they are all to be found enjoying themselves in the nearest betel-seller's shop. They reserve their energies for the poor *gharry-wallah*.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
July 5th, 1904.

11. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 5th July draws the attention of the authorities to the hard case of a mail-runner who, while carrying the mails from Katwa to Burdwan town on the night of the 30th June last, was attacked by dacoits and stabbed in the abdomen, and is now lying in a precarious condition in a hospital.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI.

12. The same paper says that the *chaukidari-tax* is a source of great hardship to the poor people of the country. It is a grinding tax, and makes itself acutely felt by them. Sir Andrew Fraser is kind and conscientious, and it is to be hoped that he will repeal this most oppressive of taxes.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

RATNAKAR,
July 2nd, 1904.

13. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 2nd July observes as follows:—
The High Court showing partiality to Europeans. A contemporary asks what is the reason why the High Court Judges in their judgments do not use the prefix "Babu" before the names of Bengali defendants or plaintiffs, but are careful to put a "Mister" before the name of the worst European criminal.

The reason is the same as that for which a European charged with the murder of a native is allowed to go scot free, while a native who is accused of only employing abusive language towards a European is heavily punished.

HITAVARTA,
July 3rd, 1904.

14. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 3rd July says that the Subdivisional Officer of Karimganj in Sylhet has become very unpopular. From some cases disposed of by him, it appears that he decides cases without regard to the law. He seems to be very deficient in Indian law.

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 5th, 1904.

15. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th July complains that copies cannot be had at the proper time from the Alipore Judge's Court unless the comparing clerks are paid money. The folios that are not required for the copies are not returned.

The editor draws the attention of the District Judge of Alipore to the above complaints.

DAILY HITAVADI
July 5th, 1904.

16. A correspondent of the same paper says that a native drunkard entered into the house of Dr. Carroll, the Civil Surgeon of Sylhet. He was tried for this offence by Mr. Clifford, the Magistrate of Sylhet.

Alleged unduly heavy punishment on a native.

The defence was that the man did not know what he did while he was under the influence of liquor. He was nevertheless sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for two years and solitary imprisonment for three months.

The editor observes:—

We do not deny that a drunkard should be punished for entering into the houses of other people. But there ought to be a limit to such punishment. In the Jhajha shooting case, the European accused was found to be innocent. But in the present case, the drunkard was not charged with committing any mischief or theft. Under the circumstances the punishment inflicted must be pronounced to be too severe. If the accused had been a European, we all know what the result of the trial would have been. If Government out of its partiality for its own countrymen, encourages such cases of injustice in cases between Europeans and Indians, we can say that the consequences will not be for the good either of the rulers or of the ruled.

(c)—Jails.

17. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 22nd June says that the theory that the impurity of drinking water is responsible for the loss of health of the prisoners in the Barisal Jail cannot stand, inasmuch as the health of the general residents of the town whose supply of water is derived from the same sources as that of the prisoners, does not appear to suffer from this cause. The jail authorities say that the overcrowding of prisoners in the jail buildings is one of the causes of the mortality among the prisoners. If this is true, then the remedy lies in the hands of Government. The Lieutenant-Governor may lessen the convicting propensity of the Magistrates who send people to jail for trivial offences, and the accommodation for prisoners may be increased.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
June 22nd, 1904.

The causes of the mortality in the Barisal Jail.

The habit of smoking tobacco is largely prevalent among common people. But prisoners are never allowed tobacco in the jail, and this interferes with their digestion and brings on diarrhoea. But the most potent cause of the mortality of prisoners in the Barisal Jail is overwork. Improper food and overwork can never fail to destroy their health. The writer has always observed that the prisoners are brought to a spot on the Lakhutia Road half a mile distant from the jail and there employed in brick manufacture. Formerly they worked there very hard till 11 A.M. and then returned to the jail to take their food; they rejoined their work at about 1 P.M. and worked till evening, all the while exposed to the sun and rain. But now the prisoners are not allowed to return to the jail to take their food, as arrangements have been made for preparing their food at the place where they have to work. This arrangement has no doubt been very convenient to Government, as it has increased the number of working hours. But who cares for the unfortunate prisoners? Even Hercules himself would break down under such strain and overwork. Cannot Government suffer its profits to become a little less? If it be considered a duty to save the lives of the prisoners, then certainly the amount of work which the prisoners are required to turn out, must be lessened.

The prisoners have sometimes to sleep in the rooms on the ground floor which are very damp and ill-ventilated. The consequence is that many prisoners are attacked with pneumonia and die. The wonder is that no complaints have hitherto been made against such dwelling rooms.

The supply of bedding to prisoners is also as bad as possible. Blankets are given to them in summer as well as in winter. Mosquito curtains are not allowed, so that mosquitos and bugs make it impossible for them to sleep. The prisoners are roused from their sleep at 3 or 4 in the morning and brought out of their rooms. The cold night air tells upon their health and brings on diseases which sometimes prove fatal. The prisoners should never be compelled to leave their beds at such an early hour.

The writer trusts that Government will take pity on the unfortunate prisoners and introduce the needful reforms.

(d)—Education.

ULUBERIA DA RPAH,
June 29th, 1904.

18. The *Uluberia Darpan* [Uluberia] of the 29th June says that a little time ago, the Director of Public Instruction removed Babu Sarat Chandra Datta, Secretary of the Bagnan School Committee in the Howrah district, from his office which he worthily filled, and appointed a new man as Secretary. On a representation being made to the Director against his action, the petitioners were told first to carry out the Director's order and then submit their grievances. The order was accordingly carried out and Sarat Babu vacated office. But the management of the school grew worse and worse and the people of the locality lost all faith in the school. A fresh representation was, therefore, made to the Director, and the Inspector of the Division made an investigation, in the course of which every statement made in the representation was proved. The result of the investigation has not, however, yet been made known. People believe that the Director wishes to hush up the matter in order to maintain his *aid*, and is, therefore, not giving any reply to the petitioners.

In the meantime the people of the locality are losing their confidence in the school and are having their boys transferred. Some prompt action on the part of the Director is necessary in the matter.

HINDU RANJIKI,
June 29th, 1904.

19. The *Hindu Ranjika* [Rajshahi] of the 29th June makes an appeal to Government to improve the quality of the teaching staff of the Rajshahi College. This is the only Government College in Northern Bengal, and Government has not to bear the whole cost of supporting it. The zamindars started it with their own money, and contributed liberally towards its maintenance.

The Rajshahi College formerly boasted of names like Edwardes and Tepper. The present Principal, Babu Kumudini Kanta Banerjee, M.A., is admittedly an improvement on his predecessor, Mr. Livingstone, but what is wanted is another Edwardes. The reason why the College has not got a Principal like him is that Government is bent on economy and indifferent to the interests of high education. Government in fixing the pay of the Principal showed extreme niggardliness, and one cannot expect good material at a cheap price.

The present state of the College is far from satisfactory. An outsider would no doubt be impressed with the grandeur of the College buildings. But neither the benches, desks and chairs which they contain nor even the parks and play-grounds attached to them form the real College. There are two colleges—one, the living body which imparts instruction to students, and the other, the outer coffin, that which remains during a vacation. It is in the latter sense that the Rajshahi College is a big institution. But this should not be the case. It was Government who made the College, and they should not now unmake it. It ought to be the model of all native-managed colleges.

By improving the Dacca College, Government has earned the blessings of the people of East Bengal. It is to be hoped Government will similarly earn the thanks of the Rajshahi community by improving their College.

The zamindars of Rajshahi have never shown indifference to the spread of education. It was they and Government who by their joint efforts started the English department. A Madrassah is already in existence to teach Arabic, Persian, and Urdu. And now, thanks to the public-spiritedness of Rani Hemanta Kumari, the College is going to have a Sanskrit department also.

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 2nd, 1904.

20. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July publishes the following from a correspondent:—

Text-books for Assam schools. On the 2nd April last, a list of selected text-books for the use of schools was published in the *Assam Gazette*. It was to remain in force until further orders. On the strength of this assurance, authors printed off their books, guardians of the students purchased copies of such books, and the schools began their work. Everyone thought that as the list was published at the beginning of the year, it would not be changed during that year at least. But before two months were over, a fresh list appeared on the 4th June. This new list cancels the one dated the 2nd April. That this will result in serious

pecuniary loss to authors and guardians alike must be clear to the dullest intellect. But the sense of responsibility of officials is so keen that they do not think it necessary to pay heed to considerations of public convenience or inconvenience. Is nobody responsible for these whimsical acts?

21. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 3rd July says that it has been ruled that Bengalis are no more to be admitted into the Bihar School of Engineering. Biharis will have the first claim; next in order, will follow students from the United Provinces and the Central Provinces, and Bengalis resident in Bihar will come last. People would have nothing to say if this rule had been applied in the case of the Patna College. But a course of training at a school of engineering makes a man of the lad who gets the benefit of it: this is why one regrets the exclusion of Bengalis from this school. As for the writer, he would have been right glad if Bengalis had been excluded from the Patna College, from the effeminate influences of the Arts course. But exclusion from the Engineering College means loss to the poor Bengalis.

RANGALAY,
July 3rd, 1904.

The Bihar School of Engineering.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

22. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 24th June draws attention to the need of employing a trained nurse to assist the lady doctor at the local Female Hospital. Under existing arrangements, a midwife in private practice is engaged to dispense medicines morning and evening and also to act as dresser. But she has recently resigned, and an untrained *ayah* at present does her work. But, as everybody knows, nursing is a special work which requires special training, and cannot properly be performed by an illiterate person. The paper mentions a specific case in which a patient was made to suffer owing to the ignorance and carelessness of the attendant.

SANSODHINI,
June 24th, 1904.

23. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 29th June makes the following remarks in connection with the recent enhancement of municipal rates in Midnapore town. The first intimation many of the rate-payers got of the enhancement was when the bills for the first quarter were presented to them for payment. At once there was a host of appeals filed, showing grounds against enhancement. To prevent delay in the collection of taxes, and also to gain credit for despatch, a bench to hear the appeals was speedily constituted from three or four of the leaders of what is called our self-governing municipality. The exhibition which this court, composed of our own representatives, have made of themselves inspires only shame and disgust.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
June 29th, 1904.

The time of hearing is publicly notified as 5 o'clock P.M. The rate payers arrive at the proper hour, but are kept waiting till 7 o'clock, then only to be told to come another day. The dilatory habits of our leading men are simply astounding. At other times the Commissioners begin their sittings at 7 or 7-30, and dispose of cases at the rate of fifty or sixty appeals an hour—a lightning speed truly. The frowns and sarcastic utterances of the court make one reflect on the utility of this mockery of self-government. These gentlemen do their work gratuitously. When the time comes for them to get votes, they go about begging from door to door. Now they claim to be doing their duty by the public by increasing the assessments. That may be so, but why do they display their own bad taste by treating discourteously those very rate-payers to whom they owe their present position of authority, and whose representatives they are? And why do they bring the municipal bench itself into discredit by talking nonsense from their seats?

24. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st July complains of the enhancement of the municipal rates in the Barasat Municipality. The inhabitants are mostly poor people. Certain villages are named which are said to have been treated with exceptional severity by the Commissioners. Hopes of redress were held out by some Commissioners, but proved vain.

DAILY
HITAVADI,
July 1st, 1904.

Municipal assessments at Barasat.

As instances of their injustice, it is stated that some persons who were formerly exempted have been now assessed, although their income is now less than what it was. Again, in some cases, special grounds for reduction of

assessment were adduced, but to no effect. An appeal is made to the authorities to interfere on behalf of the poor rate-payers.

SOLTAN,
July 1st, 1904.

25. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 1st July draws attention to the wretched state of the drains in the suburbs. They are all *kutchas* and emit effluvia which cause plague, cholera, and malaria. Mosquitoes are so numerous as to cause the performance of any serious work difficult after nightfall, when they swarm out of these drains. Regard being had to the connection between mosquitoes and malaria, one can easily imagine how far their presence in the suburbs is injurious to the public health of the locality. Sometimes these drains are cleared, but the silt and refuse are allowed to lie on the roadside only to be swept down gradually into the drains and to choke them again. But so long as the refuse matter remains on the roadside it only adds to the offensive smell prevailing. What is then the use of clearing the drains in this way? In some cases the refuse is heaped up just before one's street-door, causing the greatest inconvenience. Does the duty of the sweepers go no further? Is this the way the poor rate-payers' money must be wasted? The rate-payers are simply astounded at the doings of the Municipality!

Complaint against the Calcutta Municipality.

BHARAT MITRA,
July 2nd, 1904.

26. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July says that the Calcutta Municipality, which is already labouring under a heavy burden of debt, is going to contract a new loan of 75 lakhs of rupees at four per cent. interest. The Municipality does not hesitate to take loans, but how it spends the money so raised is as yet a mystery to the rate-payers. The northern division of Calcutta is extremely dirty and its water-supply insufficient. The connected privies in that portion of the town are becoming a nuisance for want of unfiltered water to flush them.

27. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st July writes as follows:—

The Sundarbans ferry in the Midnapore district.

Many of the inhabitants of the Contai and Tamluk subdivisions of the Midnapore district have taken lots of land in the Sundarbans. These men have to take boats at Talpati and Chunpara under the Khejri thana in the Midnapore district in order to go to their lots, their first destination being the Kakdwip *via* the Hooghly and Ghoramara rivers, a distance of 28 or 29 miles. Formerly about 30 or 32 boats used to ply between Talpati and the Kakdwip and the passengers had no difficulty in making the journey by water. But now Hari Dalni, the *ijardar* of the Talpati and Kakdwip *ghâts*, keeps only four or five worn-out boats. The landing place at Talpati has also been shifted two or three miles to a muddy *chur* of the Hooghly, causing great inconvenience and hardship to poor cultivators and labourers. Owing to reasons connected with the tides, boats have to start sometimes in the day and sometimes at night. Passengers have, therefore, often to wait for hours together at Talpati and Kakdwip. But the want of waiting-rooms at these places causes great hardship to them. Those who have to go to lots Nos. 14, 15 and 16, and similar other distant lots, have to resume their journey by boat from Kakdwip. The want of any arrangement for boats at the place puts them to great inconvenience. Again, Hari Dalni overloads his boats with passengers and animals. On the 4th April last, one of these boats was returning from Kakdwip with 150 passengers, among whom there were 25 women and eight or ten children. There were also some cows on the boat. Four or five miles south of the Ghoramara telegraph office, the boat collapsed and all the passengers, with the exception of ten or fifteen males, were drowned.

SOLTAN,
July 1st, 1904.

28. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 1st July says:—

Water-scarcity in the Karraya quarter of the town.

We have, on various occasions, drawn attention to the water-scarcity which prevails in Calcutta and the mufasal. It is impossible to adequately describe what we have been suffering in this respect for the last few days in the karraya quarter of the town, and all this suffering the rate-payers owe to a municipality which is unmindful of its duties. As most of the houses here are mud-built, they are not expected to have separate taps of their own. The only resource of the people is the public hydrant on the roadside. Roughly speaking, over 200 people depend on each single hydrant. There is always a large crowd of *bhisties* and others round a hydrant, so that to get a small pot

filled, you have often to wait for an hour. And since the last few days the flow of water in the pipes has decreased. Many of the *pukka* houses get no water at all, or only in dribblets. How can people manage with this? They are running about here and there like mad men for a drop of water. What water-scarcity means in this terribly hot weather he alone can understand who has actually gone through the experience. The poor rate-payers are already overburdened with taxes, but in return they do not get even such a necessity of life as water.

29. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,
July 2nd, 1904.

The question of water-supply. It would appear that at last the people as well as the Government have awakened to the gravity of the question of water-scarcity in the country. Let them not fall back into their wonted sleep before they have accomplished their duty in the matter! The proposal which Government has recently made on the subject does not appear to be sufficient to provide a full remedy for the prevailing evil. We therefore pray the authorities to vest the District Boards with the power of making adequate expenses in the cause of water-supply. Government has asked the people and the zamindars to lend a helping hand in the matter. The zamindars are of course looked up to by everybody. But what with the costliness of their style of living, and what with the drain which is made on their purses in connection with matters which though unnecessary are still unavoidable, these zamindars are mostly impecunious. Besides this, they pay the cesses, the proceeds of which ought to be applied to the removal of the water-scarcity of the country. However that may be, it behoves every capable man to unloose his purse-string, in the cause of water-supply. But Government ought not to depend on the zamindar in the matter. Our humble prayer is that when the Empire is theirs they should save it from calamities whether extraneous help is forthcoming or not. Much may be done by compelling the District Boards to apply ten per cent. of their incomes to the cause of water-supply. This proposal will, it is hoped, be remembered at the time of amending the Bengal Local Self-Government Act. It is feared that led by the incorrect idea that there is no want of tanks and wells in Bengal villages, Government will desist from excavating new tanks and sinking new wells in the country. We therefore exhort the public to write to us the names and situations of such villages as have neither tanks nor wells in them, so that we may bring them to the notice of the authorities.

30. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 3rd July reports on the authority of a correspondent a serious outbreak of malaria in some villages in thana Maksudpur, district Faridpur. Almost every household has two or three

DACCA PRAKAS,
July 3rd, 1904.

Water-scarcity in certain villages in the Faridpur district.

members bed-ridden. The tanks in the village almost dry up in the summer, and weeds begin to grow in them. With the advent of the rains, these weeds rot and pollute the water. The villagers having no other resource, use this water and fall victims to cholera, dysentery, and malaria.

31. The *Anusandhan* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July publishes the following in its English columns:—

ANUSANDHAN,
July 2nd, 1904.

The Calcutta Tramway service.

We are firmly convinced that all the tram-car accidents are due wholly to the employment of drivers who have not learnt their work. They start the cars with such a sudden pull that even the most cautious of the passengers are sure to lose their balance, if they have not already taken their seats, and in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred the cars are started before a roadside passenger has taken his seat. The cars should not be stopped except where there are the discs with "Here wait for the cars," and the number of these discs should be doubled. Near each disc the cars should be stopped till all the passengers have firmly and safely settled themselves in their respective seats.

And are not the tramway fares considerably larger than the railway fares for corresponding distances? Mr. Maples, the first Manager, by a clever manœuvre, got the four pice fare enhanced to five pice. The substitution of electric traction for the horse traction has resulted in considerable saving to the Company; the number of tram-going people has also considerably increased. From both these causes the income of the Company is far larger now than it was before. Is it not time, therefore, to reduce the fares, invite larger numbers of fashionable milksops to chew the betel, smoke the cigarette, and drive by

the tram-car to swell the pockets of the shareholders of the Company still more?

NAVA YUG,
July 2nd, 1904.

32. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July has the following:—

Dr. Cook, the Health Officer of the Calcutta Municipality.

It is useless for natives to become Commissioners under the new municipal régime of Calcutta, under which the municipality has become a sporting ground for Europeans and Eurasians, and the municipal funds are devoted mainly to the maintenance of the scape-grace of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian community. It is seen at every step that the Municipal Executive do not care anything for the native Commissioners. Not to speak of any other officer of the municipality, Dr. Cook himself lately submitted a report regarding the appointment of Dr. Ray, in which he openly slighted the sub-committee, consisting of native members, of which no less a personage than Dr. Mukherji was also a member. Similar disrespect shewn to a sub-committee of European Commissioners would have made it impossible for Dr. Cook to retain his office.

Dr. Cook, in fact, has become the pet child of the municipality and all his demands are immediately satisfied. He has now secured for himself a very good salary, although the rate-payers say that the salary paid to him is a mere waste of money, for he has as yet done nothing to improve the health of the town. It ought to be enquired whether the opinion of the rate-payers is well-founded or not.

DAILY
HITAVADI,
July 5th, 1904.

33. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th July says that Mr. Radice,

Mr. Radice as Chairman of the Navadwip Municipality.

the District Magistrate of Nadia, has made himself the Chairman of the Navadwip Municipality, and has begun to torment the people by threatening to prosecute them for trivial offences. The Porámatalá lands belong to the Maharaja Bahadur, yet Mr. Radice, though aware of this fact, refuses to allow the vendors of garlands and sweetmeats to sit on those lands. A correspondent writes as follows:—

Mr. Radice has proclaimed by beat of drum that all old privies in the town should be pulled down and service privies should be constructed within 15 days. It is impossible to carry out this order within so short a time. Whence are so many mehters to come from to pull down all the privies within the time allowed? The rainy season is near at hand and it is very difficult, if not impossible, to get bricks from the brick-fields for the construction of new privies. These questions of practical difficulty were not at all considered by Mr. Radice when issuing the above order.

Offences under Act V were usually tried by the local Honorary Magistrates. But Mr. Radice has ordered that all such cases should be tried by Deputy Magistrates in the district town. This entails severe hardship upon the people, as they are compelled to leave their business and go to a place eight or nine miles distant for such trivial matters.

Under the Municipal Act no servant of the municipality can be a Municipal Commissioner. This was the reason why Dr. Raj Krishna, late Assistant Surgeon of the local Charitable Dispensary, had to resign his Commissioner-ship. But Arun Babu, the present Assistant Surgeon, who is a favourite of Mr. Radice, is a Municipal Commissioner, although he is a servant of the municipality. He is now also the Municipal Secretary. Do these instances shew his exceptional abilities or his abject servility? Arun Babu also holds the post of Health Officer of the Navadwip lodging-houses for pilgrims, although a previous District Magistrate was of opinion that a separate officer should be appointed to this post. But the protégé of Mr. Radice has been appointed though there were many competent medical men who might be selected. How can Arun Babu be expected to discharge the duties of the three different offices which he now holds?

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
June 29th, 1904.

34. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 29th June, has heard that

The Survey and Settlement in the Backergunge district.

various inaccuracies are creeping into the survey and settlement records in the Backergunge district, in consequence of the whimsical conduct of the

amins and kanungos. A Gaila correspondent reports a case of such conduct. Orders passed by kanungos and higher Settlement Officers are often not carried out by shrewd amins and inspectors on various pretexts.

The temporary transfer of the Survey Office to Dacca will be a loss of public money and inflict great trouble and loss upon the poor employés.

35. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 29th June, publishes a petition from the inhabitants of the Jalamutha Pargana, a khas mehal in the district of Midnapore.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
June 29th, 1904.

Survey of the Jalamutha Pargana, Midnapore district.

It appears that the estate is under survey, but that the survey is being conducted on a plan different from the old ones. Many doubts and difficulties are thus likely to arise, unless the two parties understand each other properly. A memorial has been presented to the Survey Officer pointing out the peoples' grievances. Government ought to take notice of the points raised. They are as below:—

(1) In the survey of Khanapuri only the north and south measurements of the lands are being taken. This does not properly differentiate adjoining lands.

(2) The exact measurements of each ridge separating two lands are not being taken; consequently the maps of the present survey which will be the only guide in future boundary disputes will be unreliable. As these maps are on the 16-inch scale, the slightest deviation in making copies of them will make large differences in practice.

(3) In many places where the land has been saturated with saline deposits the boundary posts have disappeared. The new survey of these places should, therefore, be conducted after comparison with the records of the old survey of 1874.

(4) In the present survey, tanks, ditches, dwelling-houses cow-houses and other landmarks are not being separately shown. The whole *minahi* land is being put down arbitrarily as forming a half or a quarter of the rent-paying land. This is likely to lead to disputes in the future.

(5) Lands are not being separately classed.

(6) Kutcha houses should be included in the measurement of *bastu* land.

(7) Many of the people are too poor to bring to the notice of the authorities that the lands they hold are *brahmottar*, or *lakheraj*, or *mal*. A reference to the old records should, therefore, be made as far as possible.

(8) Grazing grounds, tanks, etc., which are held *khas*, should not in any case be shown as belonging to private parties.

(9) Section 37(a) and its schedule, and sections 38 and 39 of the Khanapuri Regulations are not being properly observed.

(10) Under section 40, seventeenth column, remarks headed (a) of the Khanapuri Regulations, date or palm groves are being marked in the survey where, perhaps, only three or four such trees exist. As a matter of fact no toddy is manufactured in this place; and no tax is levied on these trees.

(11) There is a class of cultivators who cultivate the land of others and divide the produce half and half between them. They are not regarded as raiyats or jotdar cultivators under the Bengal Tenancy Act. This point should be specially impressed on the amins who may by mistake enter them as raiyats.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

36. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 28th June gives an instance of alleged official high-handedness. It appears that

CHARU MIHIR,
June 28th, 1904.

High handedness of Mr. Lee,
District Judge of Mymensingh.

a broad road (Dwarkanath Road) runs north and south in the town. In 1886, Government built a Munsiff's court on this road and the adjoining land, and built two roads on both sides of the court-house. These roads run into Dwarkanath Road on the south and the District Board's road on the north. Mr. Lee, the District Judge, has issued orders closing the Dwarkanath Road entrance to the court compound. The effect is that people can no longer go north to the river Brahmaputra or enter the court-house by the Dwarkanath Road.

It is difficult to imagine what possible inconvenience was felt by the Judge from the large traffic which used to go over this road. None of his

predecessors ever complained of it. And it is a question if Mr. Lee has any right at all to interfere with the right of public way. The hope is expressed that Mr. Lee will reconsider his order.

JYOTI,
June 30th, 1904.

37. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 30th June complains of the want of proper arrangements for the supply of pure drinking water to passengers at the stations of the Assam-Bengal Railway. In most stations, even where the water is available, there is nobody to dole

it out. In others the case is quite the reverse. As a rule only one or two pots are to be found at each station instead of the four required, and even these one or two are in a condition fit only to inspire disgust. Even at a big place like Sitakund, the arrangements are defective. Many ignorant villagers do not know that there is a man specially employed to supply water to the passengers. Consequently they do not dare to call out for him, and remain silent, unless they see him actually passing by. Then there is another serious complaint. A Muhammadan was once seen to pour water with his own hands out of the same pot which the Hindu Brahmans use. All this is owing to the utter lack of a sense of responsibility on the part of the Station-masters.

HITAVADI,
July 1st, 1904.

38. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st July says that on the occasion of the last *Dasahara* festival, pilgrims were, at the time of their return, packed in waggons on the Bengal-

Central Railway. The trains on the line were also unusually delayed. The 6-53 o'clock evening train started at 8 P.M. on one day and at 7-30 P.M. on the next day. Woe to the poor pilgrims! What hardship they suffered! The daily passengers also were greatly inconvenienced on the occasion. Are not the authorities of the Bengal-Central Railway responsible to anybody? Can they not provide special trains, or at least a larger number of carriages on festive occasions?

DAILY
HITAVADI,
July 2nd, 1904.

39. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July publishes a letter from a correspondent, complaining against the Booking clerk of Howrah, Bengal-Nagpur Railway. It is stated that on the 4th June last the correspondent paid eight rupees into the hands of the

Booking-clerk as fare for two tickets to Cuttack. The Booking-clerk counted over the money, put one of the rupees away, and said that only one ticket would be issued, as he had received only seven rupees. This barefaced attempt at fraud caused a row, and a crowd assembled near the booking stall. The Police were informed at about 10 P.M., but they did not stir. As the train was about to start, the correspondent quietly paid down another rupee to make up for the one stolen and got his tickets.

Attempts to get the name of the offending clerk were fruitless, as the other officials conspired to screen him.

The attention of the District Traffic Superintendent is drawn to the matter.

BANGAVASI,
July 2nd, 1904.

40. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July says that some of the local trains which run between Burdwan and Howrah on the East Indian Railway are every day used by Railway coolies. These coolies with their dirty cloths and carrying spades, shovels, bundles of wood, etc., in their hands travel in the same compartment with respectable third-class passengers, causing over-crowding, and sometimes even behave insolently towards them. Cannot the Railway authorities supply separate carriages for these coolies?

HINDI BANGAVASI,
July 4th, 1904.

41. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 4th July is sorry that the employes on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway do not comply with the new rules introduced by the authorities of that Railway for the comfort of the third class passengers. The writer has got some letters from passengers who actually suffered inconveniences while travelling on that line.

NIHAR,
July 5th, 1904.

42. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 5th July reports from Contai that it has been raining heavily there for the last few days. All the signs point to an excessive rainfall. The crops in many places are already under water. Sowing of crops has consequently to be stopped.

Excessive rainfall in the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district.

The water of the Orissa Coast canal is at the same level as the water on the fields, so that unless the canal is partially dewatered, there can be no outlet for the water in the fields. Some arrangement to drain the water away by Sarpai or Dandapurulia is urgently wanted. Otherwise the crops will be damaged and the poor cultivators will suffer.

(h)—General.

43. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 24th June highly praises Dr. Oldham, the Local Civil Surgeon, for his generosity and high-mindedness. He is constantly in attendance upon Navadwip Babu (the Nazir) and Jnan Babu (the Munsiff), but he takes no fees. Navadwip Babu, besides the salary of his appointment under Government, derives a large income from private trade and he pressed Dr. Oldham to accept something as remuneration. But the Doctor declined the offer with thanks. Such excellent examples are indeed rare.

SANSODHINI,
June 24th, 1904.

44. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 28th June complains against the local Post Office for late delivery of letters. A complaint against the Post Office. The peons are too few in number. The morning train which carries the mails arrives at about 7, and it takes an hour or two before the letters can be sorted and delivered to the addressees. All this can be remedied if the mails from Calcutta are carried in the train which reaches Mymensingh at 11 P.M.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 28th, 1904.

Similar delay occurs in regard to the delivery made at the outlying villages in the district. In places forty or fifty miles away from the Sadar Station, it is three days before letters are delivered. And since the railway line has been opened the mails are cleared only once, instead of twice a day as before. This is a fresh cause of delay.

Then, again, many of the sub-post offices have been reduced to the status of branch offices. This has not led to any saving of expense. The only result has been to add to the inconvenience of the public. It is hoped that the postal authorities will attend to these complaints.

45. The same paper remarks:—

CHARU MIHIR.

Partition of Bengal. The ghost of the partition question is not yet laid. There was a rumour some time ago that Dacca and Mymensingh were not going to be separated from Bengal, but Sir Andrew Fraser's recent utterances show that the rumour has no basis. The sword of Damocles is still kept hanging over the heads of these two districts by a thin thread.

It was in an evil moment that Lord Curzon raised this question. Nobody knows for how long the Dacca and Mymensingh people will be kept in suspense over it. Nevertheless, we still see no reason to lose hope. Success might be ours if we could agitate the question in England.

Lord Curzon is an astute politician. Seeing the many difficulties of the proposal, he is trying to win over the Secretary of State to his side. We are sorry our leaders are inactive at such a time. Nobody in England knows the depth of the feeling roused here by this proposal. If people in England could be made to feel all that we feel on this question, it would be difficult for Lord Curzon to carry his point.

There is no hope for us now except from sustained and systematic agitation in England. Funds should be collected, and a fit representative sent over to England. The zamindars have already spent much in carrying on the work of agitation. We trust they will wake up once again. Let all classes of the community unite in the common work. It will soon be too late.

46. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Tippera] of the 28th June, in noticing the appointment of Mr. W. B. Brown as District Judge in succession to Mr. B. K. Mallik, says that although Mr Mallik is a junior officer, his decisions in civil cases gave satisfaction to the suitors. He dispensed justice in such a way that in the Sessions at least, guilt might be punished and innocence might go free. He always displayed independence in his judgments. As regards the work of supervision, he carefully watched the proper working of the officers subordinate to him. With the assistance of his able sarishtadar he laid down a rule fixing

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
June 28th, 1904.

Mr. B. K. Mallik, District Judge of Tippera.

the time within which copies of judgments must be supplied. It was also laid down by him that summons after issue must be sent within a week to the nazir to be served. Mr. Mallik was always anxious to check the bad practices prevailing among the amla. For all these he deserves the heart-felt thanks of the Tippera people.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
June 29th, 1904.

47. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 29th June, notices the transfer of Mr. Carey, Magistrate of Murshidabad, as follows :—

Mr. Carey, the notorious Magistrate of Murshidabad, has been transferred to Hooghly. There were rumours of the coming change before the transfer was actually gazetted. Many gave expression to their joy at the news in various ways. Some even performed religious rites with a view to hasten Mr. Carey's departure from the district. What success attended these efforts we do not profess to know; but so far as our information goes, Mr. Carey has to thank only himself for his transfer. He had some difference of opinion with his Divisional Commissioner. The memorial of the inhabitants of the Gorabazar khas mahal had also had its effect. But there are many who are also sorry at Mr. Carey's transfer. He befriended some people and they have every reason to be sorry. Every impartial man will admit that, with all his faults, Mr. Carey was a good administrator. He meted out equal treatment to the deputy and the daftry alike. In many cases a Magistrate coming to a new district falls completely under the influence of a particular deputy or a sarishtadar. But nobody was able to make Mr. Carey his tool. Bribe-takers stood in fear of him. Mr. Carey ruled independently. But for his whims, he would have made an admirable District Officer.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
June 29th, 1904.

48. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 29th June, criticises unfavourably some recent appointments in the Midnapore Collectorate. An outsider has been appointed treasury clerk, and it is rumoured that the Collectorate accountants will go to the accountant of the Bogra district. These appointments are made by the Collector, subject to the ultimate control of the Commissioner of the Division. If the latter is just and impartial, nobody's just claims would be overlooked and no complaint would arise. But both the new appointments are going to outsiders and to Musalmans. This seems to require explanation, inasmuch as local men must surely have been available for the posts in question. The present nazir once acted for two years as accountant and gave complete satisfaction. Probably the Collector, a man new to the district, is guided too much by the advice of the local Musalman Treasury Officer, Maulvi Nazimuddin Ahmad. The appointment of these outsiders is an injustice both to the permanent staff and to the apprentices of the local Collectorate.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
June 29th, 1904.

49. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 29th June notices in the following terms the various speeches which Sir Andrew Fraser has made since he started on his recent tour :—

Wherever he has been, His Honour has infused joy and hope by his amiability and sympathy. The lofty and quite uncompromising tone hitherto adopted by Lieutenant-Governors in their public utterances was creating a spirit of despair in the public mind. We are exceedingly glad to notice the courteous and hopeful language of Sir Andrew Fraser. We have hopes that he will seek the real welfare of the country. How far God will fulfil these hopes of ours the future alone can show. But his words at least are such as inspire hopes. For instance, he said on one occasion that it was his dearest wish to get acquainted with the people of this province and their condition. Undoubtedly one of the first duties of a ruler of a province is to acquire a knowledge of the habits and customs of the people he rules, and by personal intercourse to get first-hand information as to their wants and complaints. Everyone knows Sir Andrew Fraser to be kind, amiable, and sympathetic. May God give him health to devote himself to the service of this country.

KHULNA,
June 30th, 1904.

50. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 30th June says :—
In connection with the forthcoming visit of the Lieutenant-Governor to that town, a meeting was held, and Mr. Ahmed, the Magistrate, was made President of the Reception Committee. It was resolved that Rs. 2,000

would be required. A letter was issued to the local gentry over Mr. Ahmed's signature calling on them to contribute.

The paper continues as follows:—It would be terrible hardship to a small and poor town like Khulna, if it has to supply all the two thousand rupees which the authorities evidently intend to spend over the Lieutenant-Governor's visit. It would be some solace if the authorities could hold out hopes that we should receive any commensurate return from His Honour's visit. Our earnest prayer is to be spared this terrible burden.

51. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 1st July, makes the following remarks on Sir Andrew Fraser's tour:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
July 1st, 1904.

The Lieutenant-Governor's tour.

Sir Andrew Fraser does not make grandiose speeches, nor does he offer unnecessary advice. The way he went to work at Rangpur and Jalpaiguri has brought a feeble ray of hope to our minds. It is only by visiting different villages in different districts that he would be able to get a real idea of the miserable life the people lead. But who has the energy to make this attempt? All honour to our Lieutenant-Governor! We hope his visits will lead to the improvement of the districts and villages visited.

52. The *Rangpur Dikprakas* [Rangpur] of the 30th June, announces with regret the transfer of the Magistrate, Mr. P. C. Mitter, to Faridpur. It extols his amiability and

RANGPUR
DIKPRAKAS,
June 30th, 1904.

impartiality as a judicial officer. It is said that he mixed with and was affable to all, irrespective of rank or wealth.

53. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 30th June writes:—

SANJIVANI,
June 30th, 1904.

Mr. Marindin, Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division, at Rangpur.

We have a grave complaint to make against Mr. Marindin, Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division. He accompanied His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to Rangpur. His Honour's Private Secretary had written to Mr. P. C. Mitter, District Magistrate of Rangpur, that a Durbar would be held at Rangpur at 5 P.M. on the 22nd June last in which Babu Dwarkanath Mitra, late District Judge, and at present a Government pensioner, was to be presented with the *sanad* of a Rai Bahadurship. Mr. Mitra is the Superintendent of the Tushbhandar Estate in the Rangpur district. He was about to go to the Durbar, when at about 2 P.M. he was called upon to see Mr. Marindin and was thus addressed by him:—

"It was by mistake and without my knowledge that you were informed that the Lieutenant-Governor would confer a title upon you, and that you would get a *sanad*. His Honour cannot give you a title. After Mr. Roy was punished, it would be improper to honour a man who was not only the leader of his party but also his chief supporter. Never can such a thing be done."

Is Mr. Marindin a greater personage than even His Honour? How could he then insult a man whom His Honour had invited and deprive him of his title? Babu Dwarkanath Mitra had been a Sub-Judge and was promoted to a District Judgeship by the Government for his honesty, his high judicial capacity and his ability. If such a worthy and respectable man can be insulted by Mr. Marindin, what else can the latter not do? It is because we expect that His Honour will take due notice of Mr. Marindin's conduct and redress the wrong done to Mr. Mitra, that we now disclose all the circumstances connected with this affair.

Very foul charges had been brought against Mr. P. C. Mitter, District Magistrate of Rangpur, and Mr. Marindin went to Rangpur to enquire into them. Mr. K. N. Roy, the then District Judge of Rangpur, told Mr. Marindin all he had heard of the reports, which were indecent and offensive to the ear, against Mr. Mitter. Babu Dwarkanath Mitra also said everything he knew against the character of Mr. Mitter. Mr. Marindin regarded this as an unpardonable offence, and depending upon his report Government transferred Mr. K. N. Roy to Mymensingh. But Government also found it necessary to transfer Mr. P. C. Mitter from Rangpur.

Government should now publish the report submitted by Mr. Marindin in this case, the charges that were brought against Mr. Mitter and the depositions of the witnesses. Babu Dwarkanath Mitra's statements and Mr. Marindin's remarks on them should also be published. His Honour certainly had perused all these as well as Mr. Marindin's report. Yet he invited Babu Dwarkanath

Mitra to the Durbar to receive the title and the *smad*. Had His Honour considered Babu Dwarkanath Mitra guilty, he would never have done so. How strange is it, then, that Mr. Marindin vetoed what His Honour had decreed! Mr. Marindin so grossly insulted Babu Dwarkanath simply because he was a supporter of a good man like Mr. K. N. Roy! Will His Honour not take due notice of Mr. Marindin's conduct?

Mr. Marindin ought never to have been entrusted with the enquiry into the charges brought against Mr. Mitter, as he was determined to insult the supporters of Mr. K. N. Roy, and Government ought not to have depended upon his one-sided report in arriving at a conclusion. We therefore implore His Honour to publish the report of the enquiry into the charges against Mr. Mitter.

SAMAY,
July 1st, 1904.

54. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 1st July has the following:—

The Government and the people of India. By appointing beardless youths of its own nation to all the higher appointments, Government has been depriving the educated Indians of their just rights. This shews that Government has very great love for its kith and kin. But the rulers altogether ignore the fact that by such treatment of the Indians, the latter are being deprived of their means of livelihood and are becoming resentful. If instead of making such invidious distinction of colour and without showing too much partiality for their own people, the rulers would distribute the appointments equally, they could give satisfaction to all and at the same time effect considerable reduction in the expenses of the Indian administration. But this thought never finds a place in their mind. They cannot bear the sight of the people of this country, specially of those who are educated. Their impression is that the people of India are all illiterate savages and are therefore no better than beasts of burden. It is for this reason that the rulers treat the Indians as cats and dogs. The idea that the natives should be sufficiently educated to aspire to equality with the ruling nation, and that they should demand their just rights and privileges appears quite incongruous and revolting to the rulers. Government cries sedition and tries to put down educated Indians and editors of native newspapers whenever they raise an agitation for securing what they consider to be their legitimate rights and privileges. The laws of the land have accordingly been amended and modified in a strange fashion. Ignorant of the future the rulers first gave higher education to the people; but now they repent of their folly. They are now devising various expedients by means of which an insuperable barrier may be placed in the path of their future education. Famine, plague, and other visitations have already brought the country to its last gasp; the incessant drain upon the country's resources by the ruling nation has plunged the people in inextricable poverty; the ever-increasing military expenditure has evoked loud protests from every quarter, but Government pays little heed. Government is spending lakhs of rupees from this poor country in useless undertakings, and unable to keep the balance between income and expenditure, it is making loans upon loans. Large-minded Englishmen have often sounded a note of warning and pointed out what all these courses must lead to. But who is there to listen to them? No particular individual is ever to be held responsible for the Indian administration. Let India then go to perdition. What is the harm? Who can forego the temptation of filling his own belly, the opportunity of satisfying his whims and of committing the worst *zulm*, if only these things are possible under the present conditions. The rulers of the White Isles are firm believers in Imperialism; they are anxious only for the extension of their Empire, but they are not mindful of giving good Government to the people of the conquered countries. Plague and famine are decimating the country; severe water scarcity prevails everywhere; the necessity for the separation of the judicial and executive functions is keenly felt. But when these are brought to the notice of the Government, the reply is: "No funds are available for these purposes." But when the Delhi Durbar was to be held and other whims of the Viceroy were to be indulged in, then ample funds were forthcoming. The expenses of the Tibet expedition were easily obtainable from the Government treasury. The allowances and salaries of European officials are gradually increasing and crores of rupees are raised every year from the country without any difficulty for the India Office in England. But what is the good of

multiplying such instances? We must be an exceptionally unlucky people, otherwise how could we be so miserable under the civilised Government of the generous English rulers?

55. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 1st July writes:—

SAMAY,
July 1st, 1904.

The Sanitary Commissioner's Report the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, has not a word to say about the causation, the source and

the treatment of diseases that are prevalent in Bengal. This is much to be regretted. The only matter which finds a place in his report is that nearly 25 lakhs of people died during the year under review from various causes. The Magistrates and other officers of Government are only mindful of how they can keep the people under their complete control. The vital questions of health, supply of drinking-water, articles of food and other cognate matters never receive their attention. What a pity that the *ma bap* Government does not think it necessary to enquire why the once prosperous villages are gradually being ruined and why the higher classes are fast disappearing. The last census disclosed the fact that there was no increase in the population of India. While in other parts of India, the plague is the only scourge which thins the population, in Bengal three separate causes are at work, viz., plague, cholera and malaria. It is a pity that in a country where thousands are dying of three such fell diseases, Government is quite indifferent and takes no proper steps for their prevention or cure.

In European countries the usual annual death-rate is 20 per thousand; but in India the rate is 32. If the death rate in European countries had been as high as it is in India, a hue and cry would have been raised. But in India nothing of the kind takes place. At times it seems that there is no responsible ruler here. We come in contact with our rulers only when we are to be transported to the Andamans, or sent to jail or to pay the taxes. May we enquire how Government will maintain its costly administration if the country is gradually depopulated by famine, and for want of medical treatment and of drinking water? How strange it is that the Sanitary Commissioner thinks he has done his duty by merely stating that so many lakhs died during the year! And this is the officer who draws such fat pay for doing his duty in this fashion! Who is to be held responsible for the gradual depopulation of Bengal through the apathy of the responsible officers of Government?

56. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st July thanks Lord Curzon's sagacity and desire to please every class of people

HITAVADI,
July 1st, 1904.

The Birthday honours. as evidenced by the honours which have been recently conferred on Mr. P. M. Mehta, Mr. Sankaran Nair and Dr. Guru Das Banerji. Honours, of course, have no charm for those who have learnt to take them at their true value, but so far as the Government is concerned, it is not to its credit if they are conferred on mean flatterers instead of on worthy persons. It is a matter of great joy that Government has honoured three of India's foremost patriots.

57. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July thanks the Government for conferring the honour of Knighthood on Dr. Guru Das Banerji. To a man of Dr. Banerji's social position and attainments the honour may not appear as something very extraordinary, but by conferring it on him Government has shown its appreciation of real merit.

BANGAVASI,
June 2nd, 1904.

58. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 3rd July, in criticising the Birthday Honours list, remarks:—

RANGALAY,
July 3rd, 1904.

The Birthday Honours' list. Babu Chandra Nath Bose, the late Bengali Translator to the Government of Bengal, is a deserving servant of Government. He has now retired after a specially meritorious service. It is the duty of Government to honour men of his experience and erudition by conferring titles on them. We would have been glad to have seen him made a Rai Bahadur.

There is another name. Babu Narendra Nath Sen is one of the leading men of our community, in which his age, his family antecedents, his attainments and his moral character combine to give him a unique place. On the occasion of the Delhi Darbar, all the leading European editors in India were decorated

with the C.I.E., but Babu Narendra Nath Sen, one of the leading Indian editors, one who is held in esteem even by the European community, was passed over. Government by conferring its titles on many unworthy persons has brought the titles themselves into disrepute. That is why people often make light of both the titles and the title holders.

HITAVADI,
July 1st, 1904.

59. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st July complains of the oppressions and arbitrary habits of Mr. Watson, the Joint-Magistrate, and Mr. Oakley, the Deputy Magistrate of Ranchi. Mr. Watson abused an excise peon with such words as *भाला*, *भूत*, &c., and fined him for having made a little delay in doing some work. The Deputy Commissioner, on appeal, cancelled the fine. Once Mr. Watson abused his *peshkar* and made him stand up in a corner of the Court-room for having been late in attendance. On another occasion Mr. Watson insulted Mr. Ismail, an influential barrister of the local bar, and was only brought to his senses when the latter expressed his desire to bring the matter to the notice of the higher authorities. Once Mr. Watson actually used his whip on the person of the local Medical Officer and Sub-Inspector of the Reserve Police when he was riding in a narrow street. A few days ago Mr. Watson ordered one of his servants to bring a man forcibly to him. The man refused to come and the servant beat him. The matter has gone up to the law-court. Mr. Watson requested Babu Balkishen Sahay, a pleader of the local bar, to have the case compromised.

As for Mr. Oakley, one day he caused an up-country zamindar litigant to be pulled by the ear by an orderly in open Court for having whispered something to the ear of one of his men.

HITAVADI.

60. The same paper says that Mr. Krishnaswamy Naikar, accountant of the Rangoon Government Press, entered the Government service in 1897. Mr. Regan, the late Superintendent of the Press, had unbounded confidence in him and used to consult him in every matter of business. This had roused the jealousy of Mr. Reynolds, chief foreman, and the other European subordinates of Mr. Regan, so that when Mr. Sanderson became Superintendent, they began to poison his ears against Mr. Naikar. And an opportunity at last presented itself which brought about his ruin. Mr. Kapadia, Assistant Examiner of Government Accounts, having discovered some flaws in Mr. Naikar's work, a number of charges were brought against him, the chief of which was that he had misappropriated public money by drawing for cooly-hira sums larger than what he had actually paid to coolies. A cooly mistry, named Raja Gopal, was procured by Mr. Reynolds secretly to give evidence against Naikar before Mr. Sanderson. Mr. Naikar showed receipts given by coolies, but to no effect. He then desired to bring a case against Raja Gopal, but Mr. Sanderson threatened him with severe punishment if he did so. In an explanation which Mr. Naikar submitted in respect of the charges which had been brought against him, he proved himself innocent of all the heavier items. As for the bills in connection with which the stationery clerk had admitted over-payments had been made, the clerk and not Mr. Naikar was responsible. Mr. Naikar's work was so heavy that it was impossible for him to examine every bill minutely, specially during the confusion which prevailed in the office for some time after Mr. Regan's death. Unfortunately for Mr. Naikar, this explanation was not deemed sufficient by the Burma Government and he was dismissed. Supposing that Mr. Naikar was guilty, his guilt caused a loss to the Burma Government to the extent of Rs. 105 only. What impartial judge of the circumstances would believe that a responsible Government servant drawing a salary of Rs. 200 per month would misappropriate such a paltry sum? It is doubted whether, if Mr. Naikar had been a European, the case would have assumed its present aspect. Mr. Sanderson himself has purchased books and apparatus with Government's money and is using them in his own residence. Why do not the authorities care to take any notice of this? There is hardly a Government office in which mistakes do not occur. But how many Government servants have been dismissed for them? Mr. Naikar has memorialised the Viceroy against the decision of the Burma Government in his case, praying that it may be investigated by an able

and impartial man. It is to be hoped that His Excellency will lend a ear to Mr. Naikar's reasonable prayer.

61. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July has the following:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 2nd, 1904.

The New Commercial Department.

One more burden is placed upon India's shoulders. The Secretary of State is said to have sanctioned the creation of a new department of the Government of India, to be called the Commercial Department. It will have the usual staff of Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Under-Secretary and the other bigger and minor officials. It is needless to say that the fat posts will all go to the Europeans, those carrying smaller pay to the Imperial Anglo-Indian community, and pettiest clerkships will be reserved for the sons of the soil. This new department will be another of Lord Curzon's glorious achievements. In fact, it is a wonder that this country did not so long possess a Commercial Department, governed as it is by a pre-eminently Commercial nation like the English.

Everybody knows that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce supported Lord Curzon when he consulted it on the question of the Partition of Bengal. It is no matter for surprise then, if Lord Curzon, grateful for its support, should now, in response to its demands, open this new department. There is nothing new in Lord Curzon showing special favour to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. Otherwise, why should he, in defiance of the entire public opinion of Bengal, select Sir James Bourdillon as Acting Lieutenant-Governor? All Bengal asked for Sir Henry Cotton, but no notice was taken of the prayer. To return, this new department will require new buildings both at Calcutta and Simla. The cost of moving it up and down from the hills to the plain every year will fall on the shoulders of the Indian tax-payer—who will also have to pay for its maintenance, but it is the European who will reap the advantages of it. As to the Indian's share of the benefits, he must content himself with the thought that some coolies will get work in the construction of the new building that will be required for the department and that some low-paid clerks will find employment in its office.

62. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 3rd July says:—

RANGALAY,
July 3rd, 1904.

Mr. Lely on the Excise Policy of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lely, Officiating Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, has written a note on the Excise Policy of Government. The

Government of India has circulated it among the Local Governments for opinion.

Mr. Lely makes four suggestions:—

- (1) The tax on intoxicants should be fixed as high as possible.
- (2) The sale of intoxicants should be conducted under conditions which allow of proper police supervision.
- (3) The number of liquor shops should be restricted as much as possible, due regard being paid to the habits of the people and other local conditions.
- (4) Local public opinion should always be consulted, and as far as possible deferred to.

Referring to these suggestions the Government of India observes as follows:—

- (1) A system of total prohibition is not practicable in India, but the ultimate aim of the Excise administration should be to put down drinking altogether.
- (2) The Excise duties should be looked upon not as a source of revenue, but only as a means of keeping down consumption. Increase of revenue may follow from the suppression of illicit distilling. This should be regarded as legitimate profit; but in no case should efforts be made to add to the revenue by adding to the number of liquor shops or distilleries already existing.
- (3) English liquors should be preferred to Indian as they contain a less percentage of impurities.

We cannot help thanking the Government for these observations. But in Bengal from the days of Sir Ashley Eden, distilleries and liquor shops have

flourished in a way which can only lead people to think that Government treats the Excise Department as a commercial asset. Why does the Board of Revenue call for an explanation when the income from Excise in any particular place is found to have fallen off? Why did Mr. Buckland fight with Mr. Woodroffe so hard in the debates on the Bengal Excise Bill in the local Legislative Council? Why are subordinate officials promoted when they are able to show an increase of income from Excise? Why do they on such occasions come in for such a large share of praise from the higher officials? From all these things, it has come to be a definite creed with the people that Government works the Excise Department only with an eye to its own profits. But of course when Government itself denies that it is so, we have nothing more to say. But may we inquire the reason for this preference for English liquors?

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
June 29th, 1904.

63. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 29th June observes:—

The Christian Missionary as a pioneer of conquest.

The Christians of Europe set about their business in a very ingenious way. The Bible, their sacred book, is their principal weapon of conquest, and the one which they first employ. When a new country is intended to be conquered, the Christian missionary with his Bible goes as an advance guard. He comes, gets known and is trusted. At first clothes, utensils, and other luxuries begin to be imported for his use, and then in time the merchant follows with his wares. Next it is the turn of guns and rifles with their balls and ammunition, ostensibly for the protection of the personal goods of the Christians. Gradually ascendancy is established over the surrounding country and people, and laws are imposed. Then wine, ganja, opium and other intoxicants follow, bringing in their wake dissipation and debauchery. It begins with the Missionary and ends with the prostitute; this is the usual way in which a country passes into the possession of the Christians. Want, scarcity, famine, death, and other devastations form the concluding portions of this story of the Christians' conquest of a country. In this way the Christians are establishing their supremacy over all parts of the world. They boast of their own civilisation, and look upon all aliens in race, or country, or religion, as uncivilised and worse than barbarians.

SANJIVANI,
June 30th, 1904.

64. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 30th June says that there is a

A rumour.

rumour in the town that a certain European officer residing in the United Service Club has issued a verbal order that no Babu of his office should enter into the tram car in which he may be travelling. Probably this gentleman cannot afford the expense of having a carriage of his own, and as prestige must be preserved anyhow, he has issued the above order. But has he the right to issue such an order? Do Europeans in this country wish to have the regulations that are in force in Boer land passed? In that country the Indians are not allowed to live in the same hotel with Europeans, to travel in the same tram car, to walk along the same road and to live in the same village with them. Do Europeans mean to convert India into Boer land? The consequences of such race animosities will never be pleasant.

SANJIVANI.

An appeal on behalf of the Japanese wounded.

65. The same paper publishes the following appeal in English:—

DEAR SIR,

You have been already good enough to take a prominent part in Calcutta in the interest of the Japanese War Help Fund started in Bombay, for which the Japanese Society's best thanks are due to you.

And in sending you to-day the enclosed one set (in type-writing) of the handsome contributions that have, from time to time, poured in from various parts of India within the last four months, in help of the afflicted widows and relations of the Japanese sailors and soldiers dying for their country's cause, I count upon your further goodness of heart to give a more prominent publicity to the matter of this Fund, to which, certainly yet more help will be welcome, looking to the daily increasing number of those affliction-ridden in Japan, for whom this benevolent succour is meant.

We thankfully admit that the people of India in contributing no less an amount than Rs. 70,509 to the Fund since its inception, have very sympathetically shown their good will towards Japan in this the momentous epoch of national existence; but there are yet thousands in India who may be ignorant of this fund, but who, if once stirred to do their

duty in the cause of true charity and benevolence, will not be slow, we are sure, to rally round us with their generous help.

It is in *that* direction, Sir, that your helping hand is yet needed, and we are sanguine that the fresh and eloquent appeal of the *Sanjivani* on our behalf will not fail to reach thousands in Calcutta and the Bengal Province, who would be indeed glad to send us their dobs, and these when forthcoming, will surely prove a substantial help to us.

We solicit, therefore, the favor of your further pleading our good cause by your sympathetic writings, so that a wider sympathy may be had for the afflicted widows and relations of the brave sons of Japan, meeting their martyrdom on the far-off battle-fields and broad seas at the beck and call of their country. That sentiment alone, apart from the righteous cause for which Japan fights, is enough to inspire the feelings of brotherhood and regard, without distinction of castes or creeds, in all those whom your powerful voice may reach, and we shall be laid under great obligation if you Sir, with your usual courtesy and kindness of heart prominently revert to the matter in an early issue of your paper, the copy of which will be thankfully received by me and paid for here. Counting upon your further good will.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

President, Society of the Japanese Residents in Bombay.

URIYA PAPERS.

66. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 25th June states that there was no rain in the Cuttack town in the past week and that the air was cool.

UTKALDIPKA,
June 25th, 1904.

The rainfall in Cuttack town.

67. The same paper says that the river Kathjuri is greatly swollen and that the passengers have to suffer great inconvenience owing to the neglect of the *ijardar* who has not kept good boats ready for crossing the river. The carts experience great difficulty in crossing it.

UTKALDIPKA.

68. The Puri correspondent of the same paper states that a student of the Puri Zilla School, by name, Hem Chandra Ghosal, has shown great skill in manufacturing tooth-powder, flower-oil, match-sticks and other articles. Though the products of his industry are inferior to what are imported from Europe, they no doubt do great credit to a young man of his age. As he is willing to proceed to foreign countries for learning practical arts and industries, it is the duty of the public to help him in the matter.

UTKALDIPKA.

69. Referring to the statement of a correspondent that the results of the Entrance Examination, as shown by the Jajpur Higher English School for the last three years, are bad, the same paper points out that it is the duty of the School Committee, as also of the Inspecting officers, to make a thorough enquiry into the existing condition of the school and to apply remedial measures, where such are wanted, without any more delay.

The Entrance Examination results in the Jajpur Higher English School.

UTKALDIPKA.

70. A correspondent of the same paper points out that *budmashes* get drunk in the *tari* and wine shops in Kutapeta in Mangalabag in the Cuttack town and then annoy and oppress gentlemen that pass by the Matamath on business or pleasure. The correspondent gives instances of such oppression and draws the attention of the District Superintendent of Police, Cuttack, to the same.

Drunken *budmashes* in Cuttack town.

UTKALDIPKA.

71. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 23rd June states that good showers of rain fell in certain parts of the Balasore district in the week under report, and that agricultural operations are proceeding satisfactorily.

The rainfall in the Balasore district.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.
June 23rd, 1904.

The question of the establishment of a mining college in Bengal.

72. The same paper is glad to learn that it is in contemplation to establish a mining college in Bengal. Such a college is no doubt necessary under the existing circumstances of the country.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
June 15th, 1904.

The Maharaja of Mayurbhanja's
contribution to the Calcutta
Orphanage.

GARJATBASIN,
June 18th, 1904.

74. The *Garjatbasini*
The sinking of a new tank by
the Raja of Athgarh.

GARJATBASINI.

75. The Maharaja of Mysore having abolished early marriage in his
A suggestion to the Tributary
Chiefs in Orissa.

GARJATBASINI.

76. The Athgarh correspondent of the same paper states that the
The Birthday festivities at
Athgarh.

GARJATBASINI.

77. The same paper states that a new disease, by name, *Ranga bata*, i.e.,
The appearance of a new disease
in Talcher.

ALL THE NATIVE
PAPERS.

78. The death of Mahamahopadhyaya Chandra Sekhar Samanta, the
The death of Mahamahopa-
dhyaya Chandra Sekhar Samanta
mourned.

ALL THE NATIVE
PAPERS.

The *Utkaldipika* reports that a meeting was held at Puri with the object of
collecting funds to perpetuate the memory of the late Mahamahopadhyaya,
and hopes that the Uriya public will assist in the undertaking.

79. All the native papers of Orissa give a summary of the events
in connection with the Tibet Mission and the
Russo-Japanese War. They seem to take a good
deal of interest in both.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 9th July 1904.